

Mentor's Introduction

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Mentor's Introduction
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Susan Raymond came to her study both as an experienced National Board certified high school ceramics teacher and also as a practicing and exhibiting ceramic artist. Her passion for ceramics education and for making her own ceramic art motivated her interest in studying one of the world's most prominent resident ceramic art programs, the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana. Her careful selection and application of qualitative research methods enabled her to convincingly, yet personally, analyze the social learning of artists at the Bray.

Anyone interested in the continuing development of successful adult artists will find insightful discoveries about the community of learning sustained by the Bray. Advocates for a constructivist approach to secondary art studio programs will find evidence both to justify their interest as well as evidence of significant pedagogical challenges. Susan Raymond's study opens the door and illuminates the corners of the type of artist residency program that some would seek to use as a model for their high school studio programs. She leaves the reader with an honest snapshot in time, thoughtful conclusions and important continuing questions about the education and development of high-achieving artists.